

Finding a Primary Doctor for Your Child

What is a primary care doctor?

A primary care doctor cares for your child when they are sick **and** when they are healthy. They also help you stay up to date on your child's vaccines. Children can see a:

- Pediatrician. They only take care of children.
- Family practice doctor. They take care of people of any age.



How do I find a primary care doctor?

1. If you have insurance, call the number on the insurance card. They might send you a list of doctors or give you a Web site where you can look for doctors. If you would like to use a hospital computer, ask your nurse if there is one you can use.
2. **If you don't know if your child has a BadgerCare (T19 or ForwardHealth card) HMO,** or which HMO they are in, call Automated Health Systems at (800) 947-9627 for help. Each HMO has staff that can help you find a doctor for your family.
3. **Ask people you know** such as friends, relatives or co-workers who they recommend. Ask them why they like their child's doctor. Ask for the clinic name and phone number.
4. **Go to the Children's Hospital website at www.chw.org.**
 - a. Click "Find a Doctor."
 - b. Click "Find a Pediatrician."

You can also go to www.childrensmedicalgroup.org and click "Pediatrician Clinics". Children's Medical Group (CMG) is a group of pediatricians who work closely with Children's Hospital. The nurse can get you a brochure that lists the CMG clinics.

5. **If you do not have insurance,** you can look online for clinics called "Federally Qualified Health Centers" (FQHCs). They accept people without insurance. They also accept BadgerCare (T19) insurance. Go to www.badgercareplus.org
 - a. Click on "Health Care and Coverage."
 - b. Select "Locate a Facility or Care Provider" in the 3rd column.

Call the offices to see what doctor(s) can take your child as a patient. It is best to make a routine appointment as soon as possible. Then if your child gets sick, it will be easier to get an appointment since you have been to that doctor or clinic before.



Make sure the doctor you choose:

- Will accept your child's health insurance.
- Is taking new patients. Be sure to tell them if your child has any special health care needs.
- Takes care of children. This would be a Pediatrician or Family Practice Doctor.
- Has an office that is easy for you to get to and hours that fit your schedule.

If your child is in the hospital, let your child's nurse know who your child's doctor will be. Give the nurse the name and phone number of the doctor's office.

If you have trouble finding a primary doctor, ask to talk with a social worker.

This teaching sheet is meant to help you care for your child. It does not take the place of medical care. Talk with your healthcare provider for diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up.